

# IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Present:** Cllr T Hill – Chair                      Cllr A Carter-Woodwark - vice chair                      Cllr D Fox  
Cllr H Bellamy                                      Cllr C Hill    Cllr J.Gardner  
Cllr M. Batting                                      TDC Peart    WW - Mr. Aaronson  
WW Mr. Morby                                      Mrs Clarke - Clerk    1 member of the public

### Item(a)    Discussion and Decisions (b)

**01/03/25 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Gearon, Cllr Peart

**02/03/25 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 meeting were approved and signed at the conclusion of the meeting.

**03/03/25 THERE WERE NO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.**

### **04/03/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Angela provided details on a resuscitation training event organized with Devon Air Ambulance Training, scheduled for April 11th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The session is free, though voluntary donations are welcome, and aims to train residents on defibrillator use and recruit volunteers for equipment maintenance.

### **05/03/25 REPORTS:**

**05.01 County Councillor Dempster report.** Councillors discussed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), raising concerns about reduced democracy, increased centralisation, and potential negative effects on rural communities. The direct impact locally may be limited due to a lack of parish assets. The wildlife warden raised concerns about lighting. A new rural lighting regime will see lights dimmed and switched off earlier. Residents were encouraged to report intrusive lighting via the online portal, as many lights can now be adjusted remotely.

**05.02 District Councillor Gearon -no report**

**05.03 Neighbourhood Beat Manager PCSO Bunce** - no report, an online check revealed no crimes in the area

### **06/03/25 PARISH MATTERS:**

**06.01 Updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes.** Damage to railings and a kerb in Colleybrook was reviewed. Devon County Council determined it is not a safety risk and will not prioritise repairs. The highways officer is aware. Flooding on Church Road continues due to an underlying aquifer. Drainage gullies were scheduled for clearing. Councillors expressed frustration with poor pothole repairs, calling for drainage issues to be addressed before resurfacing. An outstanding report on incomplete drainage work at Longthorne is still awaited. Ongoing concerns remain about pothole repairs, including on Rixafer Road, alongside wider funding and maintenance issues.

A new public footpath gate has been installed by the Public Rights of Way team, though installation was difficult due to its size.

### **06.02 Litter Pick**

The recent litter pick collected 12 bags of rubbish. Larger items, including metal drums and a car wheel, were found near the A380, raising concerns about possible stream contamination. The council will consider installing a bin or signage in the lay-by. Another litter pick will be organised later in the year.

### **06.03 Pesticides Declaration, on the non-use of pesticides**

Cllr Gardner presented a Parish Pesticide Policy. It was agreed and will be shared with Millennium Green trustees and the PCC before publication.

**06.04 Biodiversity Plan** An annual review was proposed. Councillors will review the plan ahead of the next meeting, with time set aside for updates. Recent biodiversity work will be recorded.

### **06.05 Sustainable Ideford**

The group has around £140 remaining. Plans include spending £70 on churchyard biodiversity information. Bulb planting may be delayed until next year. Additional county funding may be sought. A proposal was made to use the small noticeboard on the railings to improve communication with residents. This was agreed as a simple and effective addition.

**06.06 Accessibility Statement** The Accessibility Policy Statement was reviewed and will be published online.

### **06.07 Boundary Stone Update**

Forestry England will supply two benches and replace the boundary stone using matching granite. James French will carry out engraving, and a new plaque will be commissioned. Concerns were raised about site damage caused by contractors, and follow-up action will be taken. Millennium Green has up to 250 saplings available, with donations welcomed.

- 07/03/25 PLANNING:**  
**07.01 No planning applications**  
**07.02 No Planning Decisions:**  
**07.03 No Planning appeals**  
**07.04 Planning Enforcement** There is only one enforcement officer currently
- 08/03/25 CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS -**  
Parishioners raised concerns about dredging at Larkin Stream, where high banks are preventing horses from crossing. The councillor will contact the contractor and Rights of Way officer to address the safety issue. Ongoing problems with escaping dogs in the area were also discussed. Any evidence of unlicensed dog boarding or breeding should be reported to district licensing officers.
- 09/03/25 CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE:**  
**09.01 Balance of accounts** The total bank balance was reported as £14,362.36, with £7,001.83 in the reserve account.  
**09.02 Bank reconciliation for February 2026 was approved**  
**09.03 Approval for payments** -Invoices: HMRC, Village Hall, PAYE, Parish News, grant request from the village hall. The village hall insurance has been moved to Allied Westminster, securing a premium of £764.49, separate the overall grant amount to the individual organisations.  
**09.04 An administrative report was provided**  
The council agreed on a standardised email format: [firstname.surname@idefordparish.org](mailto:firstname.surname@idefordparish.org). The old website will be decommissioned. The clerk will investigate the cost of retaining the old domain name to prevent it from being acquired by third parties.
- 10/03/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.** which will be the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 11/03/25 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** annual review of the Biodiversity Plan.
- 12/03/25 MEETING CLOSED AT 20:59 hours.**

Signed:

Dated: